



11th Sunday of the Year - B, 2024

16th June, 2024

RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles

Fr Roddy McAuley, Parish Priest

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Charity registration number - SC002876

Masses during the Week

Tuesday: 10.00am
Wednesday: 11.00am Requiem Mass for Grace Bonnar.
Thursday: 11.00am Requiem Mass for Alice Guichan.
Friday: 10.00am Memorial of St. Aloysius Gonzaga.
Saturday 12 noon: Marriage of Lindsay McKenna and Steven Docherty.
6.00pm Vigil.
Sunday: 9.00am and 11.00am

Confessions: Saturday at 5.30pm

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday after morning Mass.

Rosary: After Mass on Thursday morning.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings:

Ezekiel 17:22-24 — The Lord raises a great tree to himself, humbling all other trees considered great. This tree is an image of the mustard tree mentioned in the Gospel

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 — Christians are always full of confidence, which is built on the Lord.

Mark 4:26-34 — Jesus presents two parables with images of growth in creation, which echo the growth of faith.

Today the Catholic Church in Great Britain and Ireland marks our annual **Day for Life**, established by Pope Saint John Paul II to recognise the value of human life at every stage and condition, and to draw attention to the seriousness of abortion and euthanasia and other aspects of human life deserving our consideration. In recent years our Day for Life Collection has helped fund our traditional pro-life organisations as well as supporting survivors of sexual abuse and those with addictions and caring for refugees and asylum seekers. This year's theme, The Lord is My Shepherd, focuses on Compassion and Hope at the End of life against current efforts to legalise assisted euthanasia. To read the Bishops' Message and moving testimony of a hospital chaplain please see (<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life/>)
Copies of Bishop Keenan's letter for Day for Life are available from the back of the church.

There will be a **Special Collection** during all weekend Masses this weekend for the **Apostolate of Life (Day for Life)**.

“There has been much discussion in the media recently about ‘**assisted suicide**’, whereby people who feel they are overburdened by suffering will be facilitated in bringing their lives to a premature end by a change in legislation. The Catholic Church opposes this. As Catholics, along with many people of other faiths and none, we share a different vision about what it is to be fully human, especially when we are suffering and approaching death in the hope of eternal life. People who are coming towards the end of their lives can feel vulnerable, and recent research shows that many consider themselves a burden on their loved ones and wider society. Jesus shows us that life always has dignity and that there is no such thing as a useless life. We are called to defend this gift of life to its natural end and to protect vulnerable citizens from a culture that could pressure them into assisted suicide. We support people with the companionship of a listening ear, appropriate treatment, and the best of care, so that their last days can be times of grace, intimacy and love. Jesus did not send the sick away. Our Lady remained at the foot of the Cross to the very end as her Son, Jesus, died. Mary is the model of compassionate presence and prayer whom we are called to imitate. People close to death and their loved ones, often go through similar darkness and pain but can come to a more complete acceptance and

find peace in those treasured last moments accompanied by spiritual care”.

(Bishop John Sherrington, Bishop Kevin Doran, and Bishop John Keenan).

Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Thank you to the parishioners who have registered for our Pilgrimage to Lourdes from the 7th - 14th May, 2025. Next year will be an extra special year to go on pilgrimage as it is an official Jubilee Holy Year of the Church. The theme of this Holy Year is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. **Booking forms should be completed and returned to Alba Tours.**

Led by the Spirit Phase 3: The third and final phase of our diocesan discernment process reflects on what is needed for us to live out our mission more fully. We are looking for concrete proposals. Please take away with you **Bishop Brian's Pastoral Letter** concerning Led By The Spirit – Phase 3. The Bishop reflects on our call to holiness and our mission of proclaiming Christ. In our much-changed environment, what steps are needed to faithfully fulfil our mission? Discernment calls for boldness, honesty and respectful listening but especially for an openness to the Spirit's promptings. Everyone is encouraged to participate. The method for the Parish gatherings will be 'Conversation in the Spirit'. Background information about 'Conversation in the Spirit,' lay ministries and potential Church structures can be found at www.ledbythespirit.rcdai.org.uk

Parish walking Group: Saturday morning at 11am, meeting in the church car-park. All welcome to come along and meet fellow parishioners and have tea/coffee/cake after the walk.

Teas/Coffees - available in the Church Hall after 11am Mass on Sunday. All welcome.

Reflection:

“On many an idle day have I grieved over lost time. But it is never lost, my Lord. You have taken every moment of my life in your own hands. Hidden in the heart of things you are nourishing seeds into sprouts, buds into blossoms, and ripening flowers into fruitfulness. I was tired and sleeping on my idle bed and imagining all work had ceased. In the morning I woke up and found my garden full with wonders of flowers”. (Rabindranath Tagore).

“Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree it will live its whole life believing it is stupid” (Albert Einstein).